MEDIA RELEASE

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SPORT

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton said a new academy in Alice Springs, which is jointly funded by the Territory and Federal Governments, will use sport as an incentive to keep teenage girls at school.

Mr Hampton today attended the opening of the Centralian Girls Academy at the Centralian Senior Secondary College in Alice Springs.

Opened by former Australian Boomer Ricky Grace and Deadly Award Winning musical group The Yabu Band, Minister Hampton said his government was proud to be involved in such a pioneering program.

The Academy offers Indigenous and non-Indigenous girls aged 12-17 years opportunities to develop their sporting interests and secure their future by staying at school to complete graduation.

“Sport is a common language amongst kids across the Territory” said Minister Hampton.

“The Clontarf programs have shown huge success in getting boys to reach educational goals through participation in sport; now girls of all backgrounds have the opportunity to reach their full potential and develop into our leaders of the future through Sport and Extracurricular activities, mentoring and work placements”.

The Centralian Girls Academy is one of four sporting academies to be created under a joint partnership between the Federal Government’s ‘Sporting Chance’ program, the Northern Territory Government and Private Enterprise who have each committed approximately $2million over three years.

Other Sporting Chance academies are being developed at Palmerston High, Katherine High and the Jabiru and Gunbalanya campuses of West Arnhem College.

“The NT Government is committed to improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students in the Centre and the Centralian Girls Academy will provide extra pathways to success for girls through sport” said Mr Hampton.
“Girls will be provided with coaching and specialist training in their chosen sport, as well as support and mentoring in life skills like health, self-esteem and behaviour”

“In return for these great opportunities they must commit to the values and disciplines of the academy, in their study, attendance and conduct” Minister Hampton said.

Federal Member for Lingiari Warren Snowdon said the Federal Government was keen to see girls prosper in education through the expansion of the Sporting Chance program in the Northern Territory.

“The Centralian Middle School and Senior Secondary College can make a positive difference to the education of female students who gain places in the Academy, and we applaud them for taking on this initiative.”

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